

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, line 1 by inserting the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, line 33 by inserting the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend page 3, lines 17-22 to read as follows:

~~Preferably t~~The oversize ~~has~~ may have a length which at a minimum is adjusted to the expected settlement, so that also towards the end of the treatment, such as consolidation process tensile safety margin can be prevented. A stresses are observed here..

Please amend page 3, lines 23-25 to read as follows:

~~Preferably T~~the transitional area is may be situated near the outermost downwardly extending drainage means, where the derivative of the settlement curve is largest.

Please amend page 4, lines 3-9 to read as follows:

~~Preferably T~~the receiving end of the pump line is may be slidably accommodated in the discharge end of the drainage line. The drainage line will usually have a larger diameter than the pump line and thus be able to provide sufficient room for the overlap. The end of the drainage line can smoothly follow the settling movement of the soil area which is treated.

Please amend page 4, lines 31-34 to read as follows:

~~Preferably, T~~the downwardly extending drainage means ~~are~~ may be elongated and spaced from each other. The downwardly extending drainage means may be formed by strips/ribbons.

Please amend page 4 lines 36-37 to read as follows:

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Submission of Preliminary Amendment  
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~~Preferably, T~~the horizontal extending drainage line ~~is~~ may be covered by an air sealing layer.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 18 by inserting the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS